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Brukolak

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This fan-fiction article, **Brukolak**, was written by Witcher190. Please do not edit this fiction without the writer's permission.

The **brukołak** (Scholar Language: *mesosanguisuctor pellisflaccida*, "*intermediate flaccid-skinned bloodsucker*"), also known as **brukolak**, **bruloká**, **wurdałak**, or **were-brawl**, is a type of vampire considered by many scholars to be the missing link between the lower and higher grades of vampires.

In fact, it belongs to a category aptly known as Intermediate Vampires, of which it is also the only known member.

Originally an inhabitant of the forests of Etolia, over the centuries it would come to settle in the northern regions of the western coast, following its golden age as an independent country prior to its conquest and incorporation as a Nilfgaardian province.

It eventually became common in places such as Dol Blathanna and the Dank Wilderness of the Sodden region, specifically in the area known as Upper Sodden.

Brukolak

Taxonomy	
Classification	Intermediate Vampire
Danger Level	Moderate
Genus	Mesosanguisuctor
Related Species	Malabal Plumard At least six different subspecies
Physiology	
Height	Between 3.29 to 4.5 meters in length, the latter in the case of the largest specimens

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Wingspan	Varied, depending on the height
Weight	Between 61 and 65 kg
Ecology	
Lifespan	Between 400 and 600 years
Intelligence	Human-like
Nature	Mostly aggresive
Range	Western Coast (Old Continent)
Habitat	Cities Forests, meadows, groves, and similar environments
Diet	Hematophagous
Prey	Humans
Predators	Witchers

Etymology

The name brukolak derives from Middle Nordling Common, and means *"one who has wolf hair."*

This name was given because, upon its arrival in the North—and due to its complete lack of any kind of fur—it was common to see the vampire dressed in the skins of recently slain wolves to protect itself from the cold.

The remaining names are simply corruptions of this original term.

Characteristics

The brukolak, much like higher vampires, appears to be a sentient being, capable of possessing its own language, which is believed to be an isolated evolution of the vampire language. It can also speak other languages if it chooses.

It is an enormous creature, ranging from 3.29 to 4.5 meters in length in the largest specimens. Males are typically larger than females.

Like other lower vampires, and some higher ones not to be confused with true higher vampires, also known as supreme vampires, (for whom blood is akin to alcohol), they are hematophagous.

Despite its size, it is remarkably lightweight, weighing between 61 and 65 kg. This is due to its hollow bone structure, similar to that of birds. These bones,

combined with its distinctive flaccid skin, allow it to glide when leaping from heights. This skin also acts as a cushion, preventing its fragile bones from breaking upon impact. The hollow bones also grant it high speed in combat. It is theorized that the brukolak's ancestor may have been capable of true flight.

As previously mentioned, it is the only member of the Intermediate Vampire category. At least six subspecies are known to exist, including the common brukolak (mesosanguisuctor pellisflaccida). The most numerous after it appears to be the adumbral brukolak.

Its appearance is vaguely humanoid, yet clearly retains chiropteran traits and features from related groups. It has no fur whatsoever. Among vampires, it most closely resembles the lower vampires known as plumards. In this sense—and hence its classification—it appears to be a case of convergent evolution toward human predation that remained incomplete for unknown reasons.

One theory (linked to the previous one) proposes that, since most higher vampires rapidly adapted to withstand sunlight after arriving in the world during the First Conjunction of the Spheres, brukolaks may represent a case of both convergent and rapid evolution from plumards. These would have been isolated in Etolia, and due to a lack of sufficient prey—except for humans—adapted quickly into specialized human predators, as their smaller plumard size made hunting humans difficult unless in groups. This would also explain the loss of fur, given the region's milder climate.

This theory is mainly supported by their facial structure, which resembles that of a hairless plumard, elongated and with faint humanoid traits, as well as their ears, which are nearly identical.

Regarding the face, another (less certain) point is that brukolaks appear to have no functional vision. The only remnants are markings where the eyes once were, giving the impression that they are permanently closed. These markings resemble the eyes of certain plumard subspecies. As a result, they possess powerful echolocation and a highly developed sense of hearing, especially in

quiet environments.

Further reinforcing their connection to plumards are two additional, more speculative traits: their mouth, similar in structure but smaller and filled with finer yet equally sharp teeth, and their nose, which is very small—unlike plumards, which lack one entirely—and may represent an incomplete imitation of humanoid features in this convergent evolutionary process. The same could be said of their large size, possibly developed as a means of intimidating their new prey.

In summary, if this theory holds true, the brukolak would be the only "*native*" vampiric species of the world.

They do not display significant sexual dimorphism beyond sex itself. The main differences lie in height and slightly more pronounced chest features in females, though not to a great extent.

One of their most effective hunting tools is their tongue—thin, long, yet composed of dense musculature and lined with spines, similar in that regard to felines. This tongue can be used as a whip, making it a dangerous mid-range weapon.

In addition, they possess two elongated ring fingers on each hand, tipped with ultra-calcified keratin, functioning as claws capable of inflicting damage. While more superficial, they complement the strikes of the tongue effectively. Once the prey is sufficiently weakened, these claws can be used to grab, lift, and drain blood at a distance if the prey is large, or simply to fully immobilize it before delivering the bite.

They typically live, similarly to elves, between 400 and 600 years (depending on the subspecies). The oldest individuals are paradoxically both the easiest and hardest to deal with. Easier because their bones calcify with age, reducing their speed and preventing them from gliding; harder because these are the ones who—much like katakans when they gain the ability to assume human form—have managed to infiltrate human society.

It should be noted, however, that brukolaks themselves do not possess shapeshifting abilities.

Behavior

They are known for carrying out infiltration in different socities through their ingenuity, most often by assuming positions of high status, such as within the clergy or nobility. Typically, they first kill someone in such a position, then present themselves to the unsuspecting populace as a distant relative who has taken their place, claiming to have suffered a severe accident that left their face and body disfigured, so they can be hunched and their height wouldn't reveal their inhuman origin. This deception often succeeds, granting them a steady flow of victims—at least until someone becomes suspicious.

In cases where they replace members of the clergy, the situation is even more dangerous, as they may go so far as to form cults.

Their behavior is primarily nocturnal, both because it is a more suitable time to hunt humans and because their skin is so sensitive to sunlight that prolonged exposure results in second- to third-degree burns.

When not infiltrating society, they tend to roam green areas—forests, meadows, groves, and similar environments—where they pose as lost travelers seeking help in order to lure their victims.

Reproduction

Reproduction is sexual and mammalian, with the pregnancy taking place during 4 months. New brukolaks reach sexual maturity around the 11 years of life.

A brukolak can only reproduce effectively with another brukolak, as it is too isolated from other vampiric species for fertile hybridization to occur. However, infertile hybridization has been recorded, particularly with bruxae and alps, resulting in a creature known as a malabal.

Detection

The most effective way to detect and prevent a death at the hands of a brukolak is through its accent. Due to its small mouth and unique dental structure, when speaking languages such as Nordling Common, it tends to pronounce phonemes like "*f*" and "*s*" in an excessively hissing manner.

In addition to this, they can also be detected—at least in forested areas—by the disturbances they cause in foliage, as their considerable height often leaves noticeable traces of their movement.

Slaying

Killing a brukolak is not particularly difficult for a witcher, as it shares weaknesses with lesser vampires, such as silver and fire. However, several conditions must be taken into account to ensure a successful fight.

First, it is better to fight it in forests rather than cities, especially dense ones, as the foliage will significantly reduce its speed.

Second, consume elixirs such as Cat, Blizzard, and Petri's Philter to enhance vision, reaction time, and both the speed and intensity of Signs.

Third, applying vampire oil to the silver sword is essential.

As for the modus operandi, it is best to prepare at a mid-range distance from its territory at dusk, as it may hear you if you get too close and launch a surprise attack.

After that, keep it grounded, using Signs such as Yrden and Aard—though the latter is less effective, as they can better resist knockback due to their muscular structure. Avoid letting it climb trees, as gliding would allow it to gain speed and reduce the reaction-time advantage granted by Blizzard.

While keeping it on the ground, wait for it to attack with its tongue, then sever it. This will force it into close combat, allowing you to cast Igni and burn it—either to eliminate it outright or to create an opening for a killing blow. Afterwards, if the corpse is burning too much extinguish the flames by using the Moahk Sign and its water stream (as a poorly executed Igni in a forest could cause a wildfire).

Alternatively, when attempting to cut its tongue, one can cast Igni directly onto it, using it as a kind of "*fuse,*" though this requires very precise timing.

Once the job is done, reduce the effects of the elixirs with White Honey, if available, or wait for their side effects to wear off. Then collect the head (if the corpse has not been burned a lot) and go collect the reward.

Image Credits

- *Brukolak 3D Model Images* by Krzysztof Kuczyński

Trivia

- Malabal is a reference to Molag Bal, the Daedric Prince of domination and progenitor of vampires in The Elder Scrolls series, as well as to the similarly named Filipino vampiric creature, the manananggal.

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